

EVENING REPORT

THURSDAY

JANUARY 30, 1975

MILITARY AID FOR SOUTH VIET-NAMDavid Brinkley, NBC-TV Nightly News-

Two years ago the US signed an agreement to withdraw from South Viet-Nam leaving behind 55,000 dead, hundreds of billions in cash and the inflation that began with the war is still with us. Now President Ford is asking Congress for another 522 million to help South Viet-Nam and Cambodia for another year. Without he says South Viet Nam will go down the drain. The reaction in Congress is chilly, if not icy and the Democratic leaders say it will be difficult or impossible to get the money. When the U.S. has the most severe economic problems of its own, rising unemployment and debt, the President trying to save money by raising the price of food stamps for the poor and holding down Social Security pensions, it would be a little difficult for a Congressman to send money to South Viet Nam, particularly when it could not be saved with a half million troops, billions of dollars, and seven years of war, and when there is no assurance that more money would save it now. It is said all of this is necessary because Hanoi has not abided by the Peace Agreement as it has not, but neither has Saigon, and it is hard to believe anyone thought they would. Beyond that it never has been and still is not clear that the fate of South Viet Nam has any bearing on the security of the U.S. In the recent past it was fairly well agreed the U.S. would no longer be the World's policemen. In its present economic state it can no longer be the world's cash box.

Haney Howell, CRS (TV) Evening News from Saigon --

President Thieu said that if South Viet-Nam doesn't receive the 300 million dollars from the U.S. in additional military aid his country will face a critical situation by the end of the year. Thieu insisted that the 300 million was the absolute minimum needed to continue fighting. The President claims that the Communists have 570 thousand men in South Viet-Nam and with their aid from Russia and China they also have superior fire power. In contrast the departure of more than a half million American troops had left the weakened South Vietnamese to carry on the war, and with the additional aid cuts their military effectiveness was down 60%. Troop morale has fallen in the past six months due to the cuts and he hinted that the soldiers felt the U.S. may have sold them out. Thieu denied that he was an obstacle to peace and said that if this was true he would never have signed the Paris Accord. South Viet-Nam continued its efforts to fulfill the provisions of the Accord, he said, as to the Communist build up after the ceasefire, he said, "Dr. Kissinger told me that Russia and China will cooperate with the U.S. to restrain the supply of war potential to Hanoi, and would encourage Hanoi to abide by the agreement. I had to believe Dr. Kissinger, he added, because I cannot talk to Brezhnev and Mao-Tse-Tung." Throughout the hour and half talk Thieu constantly emphasized the need for aid. He said that if it didn't come South Viet Nam would continue fighting. He gave the deep impression that the people of South Viet-Nam would feel betrayed if the American support is terminated.

page 2-

SADAT BACK IN CAIRO

John Shehan, CBS Radio from Cairo --

Many Egyptians say that President Sadat's reconciliation with France is a remarkable change and they are hopeful that the rest of Western Europe would follow the French. It is only 19 years since France invaded Suez along with England, say the Egyptians, and now the French have signed a wide range of economic agreements with Sadat and will even start delivering weapons. The new rapport has also strengthened Sadat's hand in his dealings with the Russians. Soviet Minister Gromyko will arrive here in Cairo next week with the Egyptians pointing out publicly that they now have a wider circle of friends. Many people here say they don't really trust American policy in the Middle East, but they certainly don't want to be pushed into the arms of the Russians.